



## Fact Sheet

### Water Use Efficiency Rule

# Metering Requirements

April 2006

DOH PUB. #331-306  
(Revised)

### Source and Service Metering

Source and service metering are key to a successful water use efficiency program. Source and service meters provide the data necessary for determining leakage, assist in managing an important resource, and enhance planning activities. The proposed draft water use efficiency rule requires installation of service meters. The Department of Health's (DOH) proposed metering requirement and the benefits of metering are summarized below.

#### Water Use Efficiency Rule Schedule

July 2006 – Mail proposed rule

August 2006 – Public hearings

August to September 2006 – Review  
formal comments & finalize rule

September 2006 – Adopt rule

October 2006 – Effective date

### Source Meters

Under the proposed draft rule, DOH would continue to require source meters on all existing and new water sources. Source meters are necessary to understand how much water a water system uses. Source meter installation is the first step in being able to determine the effect on the resource. Source meters also allow water systems to track increases in production and seasonal variations. This information is vital for assuring the availability of safe and reliable drinking water for customers.

### Service Meters

The proposed draft rule would require all municipal water suppliers to meter their existing and new service connections. DOH understands the financial impacts this may have on some municipal water suppliers and would work with them to identify funding opportunities. The proposed draft rule would allow clustering of multiple connections to be read with a single meter for campsites and buildings with multiple units. It also gives water systems as much as 10 years to phase in meter installation for existing connections. Installing service meters at new connections would be required immediately.

Here are some of the benefits of installing service meters:

- Allows for a credible approach to determine a water system's distribution system leakage (see Fact Sheet, *Distribution Leakage Standard*, DOH PUB 331-304).
- Identifies how much water customers use.
- Assists in determining trends and variations in water usage.
- Provides a tool to educate customers about their water use.



HELPING TO ENSURE SAFE AND RELIABLE DRINKING WATER

- Aids in the creation of customer-specific water use efficiency programs.
- Allows municipal water suppliers to begin to charge equitably based on usage.
- Increases efficiency which can expand water system capacity. This is especially true when combined with leak detection, leak repairs, and a consumption-based rate structure.

## **Meter Selection, Installation, Operation, and Maintenance**

In order to assure water is being accounted for accurately, meters would need to be selected, installed, operated, and maintained using generally accepted industry standards and information from the manufacturer.

## **For More Information**

If you have comments or questions about the proposed draft rule, please contact:

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[http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/municipal\\_water/municipal\\_water\\_law.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/dw/municipal_water/municipal_water_law.htm)

